

Wycombe fail to force draw away to Wimbledon

Sports Mail Special Report

WIMBLEDON ... 2 : WYCOMBE WANDS. 1

A PUNCH-out in the penalty area cost Wycombe Wanderers a vital 29th-minute goal at Plough Lane. Wimbledon, by far the more aggressive and powerful team, deservedly led 2-0 at the interval, and won 2-1.

Wimbledon: Bragg; J. Martin, Rudge, Ardrey, Law, Murphy; Adams, B. Martin, Reynolds, Hamm, Burton.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; D. Worley, Atkins; Thomas, Fisher, Beck; Hyde, L. Worley, Bates, Graffan, Tomlin.

Referee: R. W. Burville.

Wimbledon began with a rush and Wycombe's experimental full backs were soon in action. Winger Burton streaked past Atkins but shot tamely.

The class of international Geoff Hamm gave Wimbledon an early advantage. Home fans howled for a penalty as Fisher went up with Wimbledon centre forward Reynolds and appeared to handle.

Len Worley, who was playing deep at inside right, was given few opportunities. When he did try to dribble through, he was well-tackled by Murphy.

The nippy Draffan was in lively form for Wycombe, but the strong tackling home half backs kept Wanderers at long range.

As Wimbledon kept up a steady offensive, Fisher headed Burton's cross out for a corner. A few seconds later, Wimbledon's centre half Law unashamedly kicked the ball out of the ground to foil Bates.

Fisher featured in another penalty area incident in the 29th minute, and this time there was no doubt about it. He punched out Adam's centre, and RUDGE gave Brown no chance with the penalty kick.

A long dribble by Worley sparked off Wycombe's best move of the game.

When Bates returned the ball to him, however, goalkeeper Bragg cut out the centre.

With a minute to go to the interval, BRIAN MARTIN scored Wimbledon's second goal with a great drive.

Half-time: Wimbledon 2, Wycombe 0.

Wanderers showed much more sting in attack when the second half started and were soon rewarded.

Fisher steered a long free kick through the Dons' defence to TOMLIN, unmarked on the left wing, who was Wycombe's captain for the day. He calmly drove the ball into the net.

Wimbledon soon responded with a series of dangerous attacks.

The Dons, however, deteriorated badly and attacked in short bursts.

Wanderers pressed in vain for the equaliser which they thoroughly deserved.

RESULT:

WIMBLEDON 2
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

SO-CASUAL WYCOMBE LACK ZEST

Wimbledon 2 Wycombe W. 1

WHERE is the old Wycombe spirit? Theirs was an uninspiring performance.

They had the ability. But they lacked fight and enthusiasm and never looked capable of winning.

Even when they scored a minute after the interval there was no urgency in their attack and Wimbledon's powerful defence were rarely tested to the full.

Wimbledon, with former Tooting star Ted Murphy at left half, had a brilliant first half.

After Wycombe centre-half Fisher had appeared to handle twice referee Mr. R. Burville upheld a third appeal and the home full-back Rudge scored from the spot.

Wimbledon continued to attack and little was seen of Wycombe's danger men. International Warley and 16-year-old Hyde.

Three minutes from the interval Wimbledon went further ahead when Brian Martin scored a great goal from close range.

Tomlin scored for Wycombe a minute after the restart from a free kick taken by Fisher.

By now Wimbledon were hardly recognisable as the confident team they had been in the first half.

Wycombe improved and were often in a position to get on terms.

But they were too casual and this and their lack of finishing power enabled Wimbledon to keep their slim lead.